

The Marriage of Muggsy

By W. H. ALBURN.

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It happened that Muggsy and Mary Ann the waitress became engaged. Muggsy was to borrow some money from a friend, and get a job, and be married. Now, it is hard for a burglarious loafer to get a job. It is harder still for him to borrow money. But after five days of tramping the streets and visiting old friends intermittingly for pecuniary aid, he obtained the promise of work in a foundry, to begin the following Monday, and a former "pal" lent him \$10 to begin housekeeping with. So he was to be married on Sunday.

It was Saturday night, and Mary Ann's fiancé was strolling through the streets, restless and happy. He thought he would be married. It seemed impossible, and yet there could be no doubt of it. Muggsy found himself staring vacantly into a shop window. The shop was closed, for it was late, and the lights in the windows were dim. There were three gilded balls over the door.

Then Muggsy's eyes fell upon a tray of rings in the window, and he started. The awful truth flashed upon him. When people get married they use wedding rings! And he had forgotten the ring. There was an old shoe lying in the street. In a moment he had seized the shoe, rested it on the grass above the crack, inserted his left foot, and the shoe was his. He felt a little better, but he was in danger. He ran quickly down the street to a passageway he knew of, leading to an alley and thence to another street, where he would be safe.

But suddenly a blue uniform loomed up, and an excited voice ordered the fugitive to stop. A pistol shot added force to the command. Muggsy was frightened. He darted into the passageway. The patrolman after him in full chase. A fence had been built there since last he came that way, and he was cornered.

Muggsy was a man of peace. The game was up, and he surrendered. When the turnkey searched him at the police station he still had the ring. It went into an envelope marked "Exhibit A."

There was a big docket in police court on Monday morning. An endless line of prisoners shuffled out of the reeking "bull pen" and stood, nervously expectant, before the bench where the magnanimous Judge O'Rourke dispensed fines and imprisonment for the protection of society.

"Well, well!" ejaculated his honor, with a broad grin. "Not very cheerful this morning, Muggsy. What is it now, Muggsy?"

"Burglary and larceny, your honor—at 's old tricks—smashed a jewelry window, an' copped a ring—wedding ring, too." The court officer smiled indulgently at the ring, while the clerk read the affidavit, and the spectators craned forward with interest for the prisoner had become acquainted with the court.

The proof was too easy. The prosecutor yawned, and held up the ring for the inspection of the court.

"Why didn't you take the rest?" he asked. "This ain't worth much, and there was a whole trayful."

"I didn't need any more," muttered Muggsy. "Didn't need any more?" repeated the prosecutor, while the court attaches and police reporters showed signs of interest.

"Then you confess to the theft?" he eagerly added.

"Naw, I don't confess nothin'." "Needed a wedding ring, did you, Muggsy?" queried his honor, with a smile that lit up the court-room.

"That reminds me," remarked Lieut. O'Hara. "We found a marriage license in his clothes—Exhibit B over there. It's got his name on, too, only he says it's for a cousin as has the same name as he has, an' was to be married yesterday. I wonder—"

and while he was wondering, a light suffused his massive face.

"No such wedding in the cassidy collymops," volunteered Mooney. "Why, what you blushing about, Muggsy?"

"You go to the devil," growled Muggsy, who, now the center of all eyes, was really blushing for probably the first time in his life.

Meanwhile a reporter was inspecting the marriage license. He was a tall, lean scraw, with a lazy, far-away look, and wore an eternal stogie in his mouth. He leaned over to the judge.

"The girl's name is Mary Ann Evans," he said. "Maybe she's here. She'd make a good witness."

Now, his honor had great respect for the particular reporter, and he was under obligations to him for certain unnamed favors.

"Have you any witness?" he asked the prisoner.

"Me? Naw." The judge handed the license to the court officer.

"Is Mary Ann Evans here present?" queried Mooney.

Muggsy jerked himself erect, his square jaw set, his eyes flashing, and his fists clenched.

told it to her. I lied when I said the license was for my cousin, an' I lied about breakin' the jewelry store. This little girl had promised to marry me, yer honor, an' the wedding was to 'a' been yesterday. An' when I happened to think how I didn't have no ring, an' how I needed one, and didn't have no money to buy one, now, an' in, we're I don't know how it was, yer honor, but I just couldn't help forritin' I'd reformed, an' gittin' a ring the best way I could. An' now I s'pose I got to go to the works again, an' I don't care much, fer I don't s'pose Mary Ann'll have anything to do with me now—fer she's a decent, respectable girl, yer honor, an' I'll be sure."

"What shall I do, on account of bein' out of a job, an' nobody to take care of her. But it's all up now, an' you might as well give me the sentence right away, yer honor, fer there can't be no wedding, an' my job's lost, an' it's no use, I guess, tryin' to be decent."

"What job, though?" asked the prosecutor. The suggestion of Muggsy at work, following close upon the revelation of Muggsy in love, staggered him.

"Therupon the prisoner filled in the details of the story. His narrative was supplemented by the testimony of a policeman who recognized Mary Ann and had known her father.

"Are you still willing to marry him?" asked the judge, curiously.

"Why, of course!" and Mary Ann stared at him in surprise. "I know he'll never do such a thing again. An' I guess I can get along somehow till he gets out, an' gits another job."

"Do you mean it, Mary Ann?" asked Muggsy, in astonishment. "I keep straight, sure, if you want to go back on me. But it's apt to be a long time to wait."

"Well, in view of the circumstances, I won't make it so long as I otherwise would," began the judge, as he resumed his judicial air. "It will be—"

But the reportorial face had suddenly approached his honor's ear, and there was a quiet little conference, in which the prosecutor promptly joined.

"It will be—ahem!"—resumed his honor, when the heads separated—"three months and costs!" He paused, impressively. "And, in view of certain extenuating circumstances—the workhouse sentence is suspended during good behavior, and the fine to be paid at the convenience of the prisoner."

Muggsy stared stupidly. "Go on!" said Mooney, nudging him good-naturedly. "No, not that way," as the prisoner started back toward the "bull pen." "Out here, with your girl. You're free as long as you behave yourself. See?"

Muggsy saw, and with a radiant smile overcame his ugly face, as he grasped Mary Ann's hand, and they turned away, too happy for speech.

"Wait a minute," whispered the tall reporter. "Your job?"

The smile faded. "It was mighty hard to git, and now I've lost it," Muggsy faltered. "I was to report for work this mornin'."

"Won't you sign this, judge?" asked the scribe.

His honor took from him the sheet of official court paper and read: "Foreman of the ———— Prison: The presence of Mr. Maguire has been required at an important trial this morning. He informs me that, as a result of rendering the court his service he may lose the employment you have promised him."

Allow me to request that his enforced absence may not deprive a deserving man of the means of earning a livelihood for himself and family.

The judge signed the letter. When he handed it to Muggsy there was a bank note folded in it.

"You can pay this back some time, if you feel like it," he said. "Now, get married; and then report for work, and give the boss this paper. It'll be all right. Mr. Jones?"

An old colored minister, who haunted the police courts and rescued the black sheep of his flock from frequent trouble, arose and bowed with rheumatic dignity.

"Take this couple into my private office and let them up," ordered the judge. The bridal pair followed the aged pastor from the court-room amid a roar of applause, and the court officer called the next case.

TRINITY COLLEGE.

To Organize a Brass Band to Help the Rooters Root.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DURHAM, N. C., March 21.—Professor R. J. Flowers, of the chair of mathematics, delivered the address before the Young Men's Christian Association, of Trinity College, Wednesday.

A movement has been started by Mr. Crook for the organization of a brass band to assist the cheering squad on the baseball ground.

Trinity College will send two representatives to the Interstate Convention at Charleston, S. C., March 23-26, as follows: S. B. Underwood and C. E. Phillips.

The Columbia Literary Society elected the following officers for the remainder of the term at their regular meeting: President, S. B. Underwood, of Rockingham; vice-president, A. Holcomb, of Durham; recording secretary, G. P. Pene, of Ocala, Ark.; treasurer, C. E. Phillips, of Salisbury; marshal, R. A. Goolsby, of Denmark, S. C.

If the sophomore preliminary debate, which was held March 14, the following men were elected for the sophomore debate: J. B. Allen, A. W. Horton, F. S. Love, W. V. McLean, S. A. Richardson and W. A. Stansbury.

In the basketball game between Trinity College and Trinity Park School, March 19, the score was 28 to 18 in favor of Trinity College.

FINE OYSTERS.

Put Through a Process of Drinking to Increase Value.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CHINCOTEPAGE, VA., March 24.—On account of the superior quality of Chincoteague oysters the demand during the entire season has been so great that the shippers have been taxed to the utmost to supply the market.

Shippers from other points on the coast, in order to secure markets for their rather inferior stock, have had to bring their oysters here to have them put through a process known as drinking, which greatly enhances the value of same.

Reform in Checkers.

A Massachusetts man, influenced by the success of the agitation to reform the laws of the game, is endeavoring to arouse the humanitarian interest against checkers. He desires to moderate the rigor of that game, which, he says, numbers its victims in the thousands. He would modify the gallingly vicious features of

the game in the following manner, to-wit:
1. Abolish the king row.
2. Limit the jumps to one in any given direction.
3. Restrict the bets to one glass of hard cider on each game.
4. Adopt a minimum age limit of seventy-five years for players.
5. Prohibit discussion of the game outside of the cobbler's shop or grocery store.
6. Compel each player to produce a written permit from his wife.
7. Restrict the playing to one evening a week, and stop the game when the curfew rings.

Annual Shoot.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WILSON, N. C., March 24.—The annual shoot of the North Carolina Trap Shooters' Association will be held in this city May 24th-26th. It is expected that it will be the most largely attended one in the history of the Association. Over a hundred shooters are expected.



New Spring Silks

Faconne Plaited \$1 Crepe, yd.

This is a new fabric, made on a crepe ground, with a self-colored polka dot. It comes in Alice blue, old rose, pearl gray, light blue, white and black.

It is one of the most stylish and novel effects of the present spring season.

Our Seam-O Crepe de Chine, \$1 yd 40 inches wide.

We have a heavier quality, 44 inches wide, in black and colors, \$1.50 yard.

Novelty Taffetas, \$1 and \$1.25 yd. Such fashionable shades as Rose DuBarry, Alice blue and reseda.

Queen Grays and Jasper Silks, 50c, 60c, 75c yd.

Fashionable for entire suits, as well as separate waists. Colored Taffetas, 50c yd.

19 inches wide; strong and lustrous; 35 different shades. Black Taffeta, yard wide, 75c yd.

Checked Louisines, 50c yd. Showerproof Foulards, 75c yd.

Japanese Silks, yard wide, 60c. Natural Japanese Silk, yard wide, 50c yd.

Spring Dress Goods.

Some of the Fashionable Weaves and Shades.

The Dress Goods this spring are much prettier than for several seasons past. The most fashionable weaves are Voiles, Henriettas, Batistes, Panama Cloths, Broadcloths, and Gray Mixed Suitings.

The leading shades are gray, old rose, Alice blue, violet, reseda, raspberry and navy.

German Henriettas, \$1.00 yd., in old rose, Alice blue, gray, violet, etc.

French Voiles, \$1.00 yd. Old rose, Alice blue, gray, violet, reseda, navy, brown, etc.

Chiffon Panamas, \$1.00 yd. 50 inches wide; fine, even weave, in the most wanted shades, such as gray, reseda, Alice blue, old rose, navy, brown and black.

Novelty Suitings, \$1.00 yd. White ground with fine stripes of blue and black.

Imported Novelty Checks and Plaids, \$1.50 yd., in the fashionable light shades.

Caro de Soie, \$1.25 yd. Very sheer, with self-colored checks, in gray, navy, reseda, raspberry, Alice blue and black.

Taffeta Batiste, \$1.00 yd. All-Wool Batiste, 50c, 75c and 85c yd.

Novelty Gray Suitings, 50c yd. All-Wool Albatross, 30c yd. Half-Wool Henriettas, 25c yd.

Very Pretty Neckwear for Women.

Linen Collars are again to be all the rage. We have eight styles of embroidered collars, all heights and sizes, positively new, 25c.

Linen Embroidered Tailor-made Stocks, finished with pearl buttons, very mannish, 50c.

Black and White Silk Ascot Scarfs, hemstitched—the pink of perfection, 50c.

Spring Outfit for Babies

Our line of French hand-made wear for little ones is, of course, the finest in the South. Bibs, booties, dresses, slips, everything that goes to make up the baby outfit.

Very pretty Long Coats of Bedford Cord, as low as \$1.25.

Short Coats, \$1.50.

Pique Coats, reefer, three-quarter and full length, as low as \$1.25.

MILLER & RHOADS.

Finest Lot of White Linen Parasols

At \$1 You Ever Saw.

Together with a big assortment of other Linen Parasols and Silk Parasols and Umbrellas.

The White Linen Parasols at \$1 are both plain and hem-stitched.

Bamboo Sticks, very neat and very, very cheap in price, at \$2.00.

Other plain and embroidered Linen Parasols, \$1.50 to \$3.00.

The Riverside Plain Taffeta Parasols, in black, white, light blue, cardinal, navy, gray, Alice blue and putalina, with enamel stocks to match cloth, \$2.98.

Hand-Painted Taffeta Parasols, in decorations of wild roses, violets, lily of the valley and forget-me-nots, all white grounds, \$2.98.

We have the handsomest Coaching Parasol ever designed, in a solid color taffeta, all shades, with wide Persian borders, \$5.00.

All Silk Twilled Umbrellas, princess handle, silk tassel, red, navy, green, brown, heliotrope, lavender and black, \$2.98.

New Belts for Women.

Special Values. Beauties—you mustn't fail to see them Monday.

Linen Belts, in crush effects, white, with detachable gilt buckle—which makes the belt easy to wash—exclusive with us, 25c.

Pique and Linen Belts, beautifully laundered, 8 rows of banding, white only, detachable metal buckles, 50c each.

Plaid Belts, representing the various Scottish clans. Exclusive with us. Something new and novel. You'll have to see the belts to appreciate their beauty, 25c.

Carpets at Cost.

Tapestries, Velvets and Axminsters.

The mills have stopped making them and naturally we must stop selling them, and as we never care to carry anything of this kind in stock that we cannot duplicate, the prices have been sacrificed.

Tapestry Brussels Carpets.

50c yard, were 75c. 60c yard, were 85c. 70c yard, were \$1.00. 85c yard, were \$1.15.

Velvet Carpets.

70c yard, were \$1.00. 90c yard, were \$1.25.

Axminster Carpets.

90c yard, were \$1.35.

Japanese China Ware.

Exquisitely Beautiful and Fully 15 Per Cent. Under Price.

You'll fall in love with these pieces the moment you look at them. Somehow or other the Japs have an art of decorating all their own.

Pick up one Tea Cup and look at it. Just as thin as the finest French china and the oddest, most unique blue decorations you ever looked at. You'll imagine the price (before you see the ticket) to be prohibitory, but it's only \$2.00 a dozen for Cups and Saucers.

Bread and Butter Plates, \$2.00 dozen.

Chocolate Pots, Plates, Pitchers, etc., just as moderately priced.

New Trunks and Travelling Bags

Have You Seen Our Rearranged Trunk Department?

Trunk needs are quickly satisfied here—and at little cost compared to values given.

26-inch Flat Top Canvas Covered Trunk, heavy iron bottom, good brass lock, \$3.50.

34-inch Heavy Canvas Covered Trunk, heavy brass corners, fibre edges, double strap, \$6.50.

36-inch Roller Tray Trunk, iron bottom, heavy iron corners and bottom, good brass lock, \$6.50.

34-inch Automatic Trunk, double strap, heavy brass corners, \$7.

34-inch Roller Tray Trunk, lined, heavy brass trimmings, double strap, \$10.25.

24-inch heavy Cowhide Suit Cases, double strap, lined, lined, extra quality brass lock, \$5 each.

Yorn Back Alligator Bags, 12-inch size, covered frame, polished brass trimmings, a \$5 value for \$3.15.

10-inch extra quality Walrus Finish Leather Bags, covered frame, gun metal trimmings, a \$7.50 value for \$6.00.

14-inch Black Grain Leather Bags, nicely lined, Japanese frame, nickel trimmings, \$2 each.

Stationery at Special Prices

Tinted Paper, in blue only; French Cheviot and Pongee, Laid Linen, in white, all regular 25c values, for

19c lb.

MILLER & RHOADS.

Warner Rust-Proof Corsets, \$3.00



\$3.00

Very fine quality batiste high bust, long hips with three sets of hose supporters. The illustration shows you exactly how the Corset looks, both front and back. It is No. 340.

No. 291 has a high bust, straight front, medium long back, \$4.00.

Warner Corsets being made with rustproof steels will not corrode from perspiration—a very important matter during hot weather.

Satin Broche Hose Supporters, with extra heavy elastic, finished with full bow, 65c.

MILLER & RHOADS.

Embroideries.

13,000 yds. Half Price

Cambrie, Swiss, Nainsook and Batiste in strips of 1-2 to 6-4 yards long—just as they came from the mill.

The Edges and Insertings we cannot cut. They must be sold in the lengths they now are.

The Bandings (so much used now for shirt waist fronts) will be cut any length you desire.

You may expect to see the best values ever offered here in Embroideries.

We've divided them into ten separate lots.

5c, 10c, 12½c, 15c, 19c, 25c, 39c, 50c, 75c, \$1 yd

An average saving of one-half. Goods displayed on tables, centre aisle.

Slip Covers to Order

An ordinary five-piece set of furniture covered with a linen-finish fabric for about \$7.98.

Workmanship and fit guaranteed.

Novelties in High Class Suits

The Leading Designs of American Manufacturers and Copies of Best French Models.

Individuality marks each one of these new Suits, as the most of them are only one of a kind.

Women looking for something distinctive in dress will be attracted immediately by these Suits.

As we cannot duplicate many of them, the first comers will naturally get the choicest values of the season.

Fancy Silk and Wool Cream White Serge Suits, with overlaid of reseda green. Eton coat, with low, full dress collar of reseda green taffeta, trimmed with soutache braid.

Full dress plique vest; cuffs of taffeta, trimmed with silk soutache braid. Circular skirts, with inverted plaits back and sides; girdle to match.

Cream White Serge Suits, with black hair-line stripes. The style of the coat is that of a vice-admiral of the navy, slightly shaped in the back, fly front, patch pockets, lined with taffeta. Circular skirt, with two folds around the bottom. A very jaunty mountain or seashore suit.

Cream White Serge Suits, Eton coat, lined with taffeta, box front, inverted plait over the shoulders and down the front and back; silk vest; front, silk ornaments. Plain circular skirts, with plaits back, side and front.

Black and White Hair-line Panama Suits, Eton style, coat lined with taffeta, wide bands in front, over the shoulder and down the back. Black and red taffeta down the front of the blouse, with gold braid trimming; cuffs of the same design; white plique vest; circular skirt, with bands, trimmed with soutache braid.

Plaid Gray Chiffon Panama Suits, of superior quality cloth; Eton coat, lined with white taffeta; bands of Bengaline silk stitched over the shoulders and down the back, forming a circle in the back to the bottom of the Eton; folds over the shoulders. The collar and front trimmed with Bengaline, fancy silk braid and lace; cuffs the same. Circular skirt, plaited with three-inch band of Bengaline silk.

Persian Mull Waists; very sheer quality, long sleeves which can be detached at the elbow, making the garment elbow length. Fancy ruffle of lace and lace medallions. Circles of Val lace and lace medallions on body, front and back. Three rows of insertion around neck, with attached collar of lace and lace insertion; sizes up to 42.

Chiffon Taffeta Waists, buttoning in the back; long sleeve; front of pin tucks and rows of shirred silk around the yoke; cluster of pin tucks in back. Sizes up to 40 in royal and Alice blue, and up to 44 in black.

Two Beautiful Waists, \$3.98 and \$4.98

Everybody admits that Matting is far more serviceable as spring and summer floor coverings than anything else that can be used.

Quality and price are the next consideration.

We have a lot of new China Matting, good heavy weights, as low as 20c; splendid values they are.

Others at 25c, 30c and upwards, the grade at 30c being a heavy hand-painted article.